



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Olympia WA 98504-5000

December 6, 2004

Dear Parent or Foster Parent:

I am writing about a potential change in services available to your child. Children's Administration (CA) will be using a new format for your child's next assessment for Medicaid Personal Care services. A new assessment called the Comprehensive Assessment Reporting Evaluation tool (CARE) has been developed by the Aging and Disabilities Service Administration (ADSA), and the Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD) following in-depth testing.

CARE reflects federal rules that govern this Title XIX program, as well as policy established by Washington State's lead agency for the program, ADSA. Some of the rules are:

- Personal care hours cannot be used for daycare.
- Personal care hours cannot substitute for respite care.
- Personal care may not be authorized during the hours that school is in session.
- Natural and adoptive parents are expected to provide up to three-fourths of the personal care support for their child and all of such supports as laundry and meal preparation.
- Age guidelines take into account child developmental stages. For example, the program won't authorize hours for toileting for a child under 4 years old.

The number of service hours available will be determined after the CARE assessment has been completed and reviewed. The hours available may be more or less than your child was previously receiving. As a result of the rules described above, particularly the prohibition on daycare, respite care and use during school hours, most of the people who participated in the test received fewer hours than before. One or more of these services may be available through another public program.

CARE must be completed in the home where the child lives. We anticipate it may take approximately 3 hours. As we transition to CARE for all assessments throughout 2005, CA will contact you to set a mutually agreeable time for the home visit. Among the questions you will be asked are:

- What medications does the child take?
- Who are the medical providers for the child (names, phone numbers, and addresses)?
- Who provides care for the child now, including relatives, friends, and daycare providers (names, phone numbers, and addresses)?
- What documentation do you have on hand regarding the child's diagnoses?

Having such information readily available at the home visit will save time.

Please call James Reddick, CA headquarters program manager at 360-902-0279 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Uma S. Ahluwalia".

Uma S. Ahluwalia
Assistant Secretary
Children's Administration